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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AF-06 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3798
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ORIG SENT W/MISSING TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR
SUBJECT: SPINOLA INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AND TELEVISED OCTOBER 2

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2 IN FIGARO AND TELEVISED LATER THAT EVENING, FORMER PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT GENERAL ANTONIO DE SPINOLA CALLED ON THE WEST TO SAVE PORTUGAL FROM SLIDING INTO "THE ABYSS OF SOVIET IMPERIALISM." IT IS TIME, HE SAID FOR THE WEST TO "STIR FROM ITS LETHARGY AND LEND A HAND IN
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DEFENDING DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL."

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2. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT IN LISBON WAS DESCRIBED BY SPINOLA AS MERELY THE RESULT OF TACTICAL MEASURES DEVISED BY THE COMMUNISTS TO PRODUCE THE APPEARANCE OF A PORTUGAL ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY. INDEED, FOR SPINOLA, PORTUGAL HAS NO REAL GOVERNMENT IN THE SENSE OF A LEADERSHIP CAPABLE OF SOLVING CURRENT PROBLEMS. THE MAJOR PROBLEM FACING PORTUGAL TODAY IS THAT THE NATION NO LONGER CAN COUNT ON ITS ARMED FORCES. THE COMMUNISTS, UNDER THE GUISE OF DEMOCRATIZATION, HAVE SET UP REVOLUTIONARY STRUCTURES THROUGHOUT THE MILITARY WITH THE AIM OF SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING MODERATE ELEMENTS.

3. SPINOLA HELD PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND DESCRIBED HIS OWN RESIGNATION FROM THE PRESIDENCY AS A PROTEST AGAINST THE BREAKDOWN IN MILITARY DISCIPLINE. HE ALSO HELD COSTA GOMEZ AND OTHER "TRAITORS" RESPONSIBLE FOR '.MAJOR CRIMES" AND FOR THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS BY BUNGLING PORTUGUESE DECOLONIZATION IN AFRICA. THEIR GOAL, HE SAID, WAS TO TRANSFORM FORMER PORTUGUESE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES INTO STATES SUBORDINATE TO THE SOVIET UNION.

4. DESCRIBING HIS OWN "DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PORTUGAL," SPINOLA SAID THAT HE WAS COUNTING ON THE "DETERMINATION WHICH IN DIFFICULT HOURS HAS ALWAYS CHARACTERIZED THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE" AND SAID THAT HE HAD "NOT THE SLIGHTEST DOUBT THAT THE PRESENT REGIME WILL BE OVERTHROWN AND REPLACED BY A WESTERN STYLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

5. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS FACT THAT SPINOLA MADE RINGING STATEMENT TO PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ASSURING THEM "HOUR OF LIBERATION WOULD COME."
COMMENT: ALTHOUGH INTERVIEW WAS TAPED IN BRAZIL, WE FIND IT CURIOUS THAT FRENCH TELEVISION AGREED TO CARRY PORTIONS ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WHICH, IN EFFECT, CONSTITUED A PROMISE OF EVENTUAL "LIBERATION" FROM AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT.
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6. IN ANSWER TO A QUERRY AS TO WHAT HE PLANNED TO DO TO BRING ABOUT HIS OWN RETURN TO PORTUGAL, SPINOLA REPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERED THAT "THIS WAS NOT THE PROPER MOMENT TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTION."
RUSH

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